

Minutes Alford Select Board

December 13, 2021

Present: Select Board Charles Ketchen, Peggy Rae Henden-Wilson, TJ Horrigan

VIA Zoom: Peter Puciloski, Jayne Smith; Caleb Stone, SBVAS

Meeting called to order at 5:32pm

Minutes of November 22, 2021 approved

SBVAS: Caleb Stone from the Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Squad introduced himself as the new managing director. He reported the SBVAS is working on the FY2023 operating budget and hopes to have figures by the beginning of January. Stone also made note the SBVAS is looking to upgrade or replace 2 vehicles next years. The SBVAS is hoping the member towns will contribute some their share of the ARPA funds. Stone is preliminarily asking Alford consider \$9298.01? Henden-Wilson asked Stone how he came up with this figure. He stated it was a percentage of the total amount the Town will receive in ARPA Funds. Henden-Wilson also asked what the assessment formula would be for the operating budget and Stone stated 50% in valuation and 50% in response.

BOH update: Smith reported there are 5 reported Covid cases in Alford. She reports the statistics show non-vaccinated people are testing positive at a higher rate than fully vaccinated people are. The state has changed the guidance on contract tracing and are primarily focusing on schoolchildren and community events. Smith has put out a reminder there will be a vaccination clinic on December 18 at BCC in Pittsfield. Ketchen and Henden-Wilson both expressed frustration with the lack of communication from the SBRSD regarding Covid . Lastly, Smith reports she has access to rapid Covid tests and suggests offering weekly testing to unvaccinated employees. Henden- Wilson stated she is in favor.

Highway update: Horrigan reported MassDOT will hold a Virtual Design Public Hearing on the Scribner Brook project on December 21st at 6:30pm . MassDOT would like someone from the Select Board to attend. Ketchen agreed to attend.

Tim Drumm submitted his resignation as the Saturday transfer station attendant. Horrigan contacted John Moreau who would occasionally fill in for Drumm and he has agreed to fill the position.

The chassis for the new Highway truck has been built. The truck should be completed and delivered in the Spring.

Old Business: EDM- Results – No Report

KP Law- By-Law review- Henden- Wilson received an email from Alex Glover, Planning Board, stating at the last Planning Board meeting the Board voted to request a new Town Counsel be hired to complete the work on the Zoning by-laws. Henden-Wilson made the motion to terminate KP Law as Town Counsel for Alford. Motion seconded by Puciloski. Motion passed unanimously. Puciloski offered to draft a letter to KP Law regarding the termination.

Cell Phone Policy: Lauren Sartori-Hobgood, Town Accountant, suggested the Select Board create a cell phone policy as to which emergency management positions would be eligible to have a paid or reimbursed cell phone. Ketchen stated the original issuance of the cell phones came from a grant a MEMA grant in 2001. Those positions included, Police Chief, Highway Superintendent, Chair of the Select Board and Administrative Assistant. Henden-Wilson stated a lot has changed since 2001 and the list should be revised. Henden-Wilson speaking as the Town Clerk stated she was going to put together a presentation for the Select Board for the next meeting.

New Business: Observance for Christmas/ New Year's. Horrigan asked since both holidays are on a Saturday if the Board would approve to have the Transfer Station open on Friday from 8am to 12pm. The Highway Department would observe the Holiday on Monday December 27 and January 3. The Select Board agreed. Henden-Wilson clarified just the Highway Department would observe the Holiday on the Monday.

Other Topics:

Ketchen asked Puciloski if at the next Alford Link meeting he would ask his board for \$7500 for tree trimming. Puciloski agreed.

Henden-Wilson stated the Town Accountant would be at the Select Board meeting on January 10 to discuss ARPA funds.

Meeting adjourned 6:15 pm

Respectfully submitted
Roxanne Germain

